

School Information Sheet



✓ Why is this Important?

- The goal of equipping students and their families with an emergency kit and a communications plan is important and can **save lives**.
- The learning goals result in strategies that prepare students and their families for **large scale disasters** (hurricanes, blizzards, floods) as well as **small emergencies** (house fires, electricity going out, etc)
- Armed with knowledge, 4th and 5th grade students can be agents of action in tough situations- helping adults deal with a situation as opposed to being afraid. Fulfilling this productive role can decrease anxiety levels and help the child recover from the incident faster.

✓ What Do Teachers Say?

Over **51,000 students** in New England participated in the STEP program over the last three years. Their teachers found the following aspects most appealing about the program:

- STEP requires only **1 hour of classroom time** during the school year. Optional supplemental lessons are flexible enough to fit into a variety of subject areas such as math, language arts, social studies, and science.
- STEP was a beneficial expansion to already established school emergency safety plans.
- STEP lessons were **created by teachers** and designed with state and national standards.

✓ What Learning Tools are Included?

- Teachers receive a STEP instructional guide, “Adventures of the Disaster Dudes” DVD, and a Disaster Dudes Class Game
- Teachers receive copies of all the student handouts required to teach the base lesson.
- Students **may** receive yellow back packs with “starter” emergency kits- flashlight with batteries, emergency blanket, whistle, snack bar, and bottle of water.



To Get *YOUR* school involved in the STEP program,
please contact:

FEMA-R01-STEP@fema.dhs.gov

617-832-4718

www.riema.ri.gov/step